

2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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Cultural events

**\*Orthodox Christmas**  
7 January

**Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras**  
13 February – 1 March

**\*Chūn Jié (Chinese New Year)**  
17 February

**\*Seollal (Korean New Year)**  
17 February

**\*Tết (Vietnamese New Year)**  
17 February

**\*Ramadan**  
17 February – 18 March

**\*Tsagaan Sar (Mongolian New Year)**  
18 February

**\*Losar (Tibetan New Year)**  
18–20 February

**Ash Wednesday – Lent begins**  
18 February

**Holi**  
4 March

**\*Eid al-Fitr**  
19–20 March

**\*Nowruz (Norooz)**  
21 March

**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**  
21 March

**Palm Sunday**  
29 March

**\*Passover (Pesach)**  
1–9 April

**Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday)**  
2 April

**\*Good Friday**  
3 April (Western)  
10 April (Eastern)

**\*Holy Saturday**  
4 April (Western)  
11 April (Eastern)

**\*Easter Sunday**  
5 April (Western)  
12 April (Eastern)

**\*Easter Monday**  
6 April (Western)  
13 April (Eastern)

**\*Songkran (Thai New Year)**  
13–15 April

**Thingyan (Burmese New Year)**  
13–16 April

**\*Navavarsha (Nepalese New Year)**  
14 April

**\*Aluth Avurudda (Sinhalese New Year)**  
14 April

**\*Puthandu (Tamil New Year)**  
14 April

**\*Pohela Boishakh (Bengali New Year)**  
14 April

**\*Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)**  
14 April

**\*Choul Chnam Thmey (Cambodian/Khmer New Year)**  
14–16 April

**\*Pii Mai (Lao New Year)**  
16–18 April

**Vesak**  
1 May

**Cinco de Mayo**  
5 May

**\*Shavuot**  
21–23 May

**\*Pentecost**  
24 May

**\*Eid al-Adha**  
26–30 May

**National Reconciliation Week**  
27 May – 3 June

**\*Al Hijri (Islamic New Year)**  
16 June

**National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week**  
5–12 July

**International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**  
9 August

**Krishna Janmashtami**  
4 September

**\*Rosh Hashanah**  
11–13 September

**\*Yom Kippur**  
20–21 September

**\*Sukkot (Tabernacles)**  
25 September – 2 October

**\*Shemini Atzeret**  
2–3 October

**\*Simchat Torah**  
3–4 October

**Vijayadashami**  
20 October

**\*Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)**  
2 November

**\*Diwali (also known as Deepavali)**  
8 November

**Remembrance Day**  
11 November

**\*Hanukkah**  
4–12 December

**\*Christmas Day**  
25 December

**\*Kwanzaa**  
26 December 2026 – 1 January 2027

NSW school term dates

**Term 1**  
27 January – 2 April

**Term 2**  
20 April – 3 July

**Term 3**  
20 July – 25 September

**Term 4**  
12 October – 17 December

Public holidays

**New Year's Day**  
1 January

**Australia Day**  
26 January

**Good Friday**  
3 April

**Easter Saturday**  
4 April

**Easter Sunday**  
5 April

**Easter Monday**  
6 April

**ANZAC Day**  
25 April

**King's Birthday**  
8 June

**Labour Day**  
5 October

**Christmas Day**  
25 December

**Boxing Day**  
26 December

**Additional day (Boxing Day)**  
28 December

Calendar key

**Welcome Program**  
9–20 February  
20–31 July

**Semester 1**  
23 February – 20 June

**Semester 2**  
3 August – 28 November

**Teaching weeks**  
23 February – 31 May  
3 August – 8 November

**Semester census dates**  
31 March  
31 August

**Mid-semester break**  
6–12 April  
28 September – 5 October

**Study vacation (STUVAC)**  
1–7 June  
9–15 November

**Examinations**  
9–20 June  
16–28 November

**Public holiday**

\*Dates when observant students and staff are most likely to take leave. See reverse for full description of cultural events. NB: Jewish and Islamic holidays typically begin the evening prior to the date shown.

Dates are subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit [sydney.edu.au/students/key-dates.html](https://sydney.edu.au/students/key-dates.html)

This calendar aims to raise awareness of key cultural and religious events observed by members of the University community. It also highlights some national and international days of significance that relate to cultural diversity, First Peoples and the LGBTQIA+ community.

While it is not exhaustive, the calendar is intended to support staff to be inclusive when planning and scheduling key events and meetings. In particular, it highlights

Cultural event descriptions

**7 January**  
**Orthodox Christmas**  
Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas Day by the Julian calendar. It is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

**13 February – 1 March**  
**Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras**  
Taking place annually since 1978, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is a month-long festival celebrating the vitality of the LGBTQIA+ community with cultural events held at historically significant sites across Eora Country.

**17 February**  
**Chūn Jié, Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year)**  
Chūn Jié, the Chinese Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, marks the beginning of the lunar calendar year. This festival is a time of renewal, reflection, and fostering relationships, embodying hopes for health, happiness, and success in the coming year.

**17 February**  
**Seollal (Korean New Year)**  
Seollal, the Korean Lunar New Year, marks the first day of the Korean lunar calendar and is a time for family reunions, ancestral rites, and various cultural activities.

**17 February**  
**Tết (Vietnamese New Year)**  
Tết, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, marks the arrival of spring and is a time for family reunions, honoring ancestors, and welcoming the new year with hopes for prosperity and good fortune.

**17 February – 18 March**  
**Ramadan**  
The holy month of Ramadan begins with the first light of dawn commemorating the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. During Ramadan Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

**18 February**  
**Tsagaan Sar (Mongolian New Year)**  
Tsagaan Sar, the Mongolian Lunar New Year, celebrates renewal and unity. Families gather for traditional feasts and offer blessings for health, prosperity, and peace. This festival honors ancestral spirits and is marked by sharing special foods, customs, and respect for elders.

**18–20 February**  
**Losar (Tibetan New Year)**  
Losar, the Tibetan New Year, marks the start of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar. It is a time for spiritual renewal, family gatherings, and celebration of Tibetan heritage.

**18 February**  
**Ash Wednesday – Lent begins**  
Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar, traditionally a time of fasting and reflection. It begins with Ash Wednesday.

**4 March**  
**Holi**  
A joyous spring Hindu festival that is dedicated to Krishna or Kama. People throw coloured water or coloured powder in celebration.

**19–20 March**  
**Eid al-Fitr**  
An important religious holiday that celebrates the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. Also known as the festival of the ‘Breaking of the Fast.’

**21 March**  
**Nowruz (Norooz)**  
Nowruz means 'new day' in Farsi and is a traditional festival of spring that has been celebrated for more than 3000 years. Nowruz is shared by many people from Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq and others in the Black Sea basin, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Western, Central and Southern Asia.

**21 March**  
**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**  
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” The day is an opportunity to reflect on our collective responsibility for promoting and protecting this ideal.

NB: All Jewish holidays begin the evening prior to the date shown.

**29 March**  
**Palm Sunday**  
Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the Christian Holy Week and commemorates the story of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem before his crucifixion.

**1–9 April**  
**Passover (Pesach)**  
Celebrates the redemption of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. Many Jews refrain from work during the whole festival, or at least for the first two days.

**2 April**  
**Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday)**  
Maundy Thursday commemorates the washing of the feet (Maundy) and the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles, as described in the Christian New Testament.

**3 April**  
**Good Friday (Western)**

**10 April**  
**Good Friday (Eastern)**  
Good Friday is a solemn Christian remembrance of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Many countries observe Good Friday as a national holiday on the Friday before Easter.

**4 April**  
**Holy Saturday (Western)**

**11 April**  
**Holy Saturday (Eastern)**  
Holy Saturday is a Christian commemoration of the final day of Christ’s death. It is associated with traditions regarding Christ’s triumphant descent into hell and a 40-hour-long vigil that followers of Jesus Christ held after his burial on Good Friday.

**5 April**  
**Easter Sunday (Western)**

**12 April**  
**Easter Sunday (Eastern)**  
Easter Sunday is regarded by Christians as the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**6 April**  
**Easter Monday (Western)**

**13 April**  
**Easter Monday (Eastern)**  
Easter Monday is the day after Easter Sunday in Eastern or Western Christian traditions. The day marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his crucifixion.

**13–15 April**  
**Songkran (Thai New Year)**  
Songkran marks the Thai New Year and is known as the Water Festival. Traditionally, people pour water on each other as a way to wash away bad luck and usher in a fresh start, celebrating with joy, family gatherings, and spiritual activities.

**13–16 April**  
**Thingyan (Burmese New Year)**  
Thingyan, Burmese New Year, is based on the lunisolar calendar and is a joyous, social and culturally symbolic time. The highlight of the celebration is the symbolic throwing of water, which represents the washing away of sins and bad luck from the previous year.

**14 April**  
**Navavarsha (Nepalese New Year)**  
Navavarsha, the Nepalese New Year, is a joyful time where Nepal comes to life with colourful celebrations. People typically get together with family and friends for parties and picnics, and in the morning, will typically make their way to temple to perform puja – a ritual offering presented to their gods.

**14 April**  
**Aluth Avurudda (Sinhalese New Year)**  
Celebrated in Sri Lanka, Aluth Avurudda marks the beginning of the solar New Year.

**14 April**  
**Puthandu (Tamil New Year)**  
Celebrated by Tamils, Puthandu, also known as Puthu-varusham, is the beginning of the solar new year.

dates relating to the most commonly practiced religions in Australia (Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism), which may have work restrictions for those who observe them.

Please note that some dates may be subject to change. There may also be regional and/or denominational differences in when the event is observed.

**14 April**  
**Pohela Boishakh (Bengali New Year)**  
Pohela Boishakh is the first day of the Bangla Calendar. Bengali people clean and decorate their homes, and visit temples and pray for good fortune and prosperity in the coming year.

**14 April**  
**Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)**  
Celebrated by the Sikh community, Vaisakhi, also known as Baisakhi, is an ancient harvest festival that marks the beginning of a new solar year and harvest season.

**14–16 April**  
**Choul Chnam Thmey (Cambodian/Khmer New Year)**  
Choul Chnam Thmey marks the end of the harvesting season when farmers enjoy the fruits of their labour before the rainy season begins. The New Year coincides with the traditional solar new year in several parts of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

**14–16 April**  
**Pii Mai (Lao New Year)**  
Boun Pi Mai, the Lao New Year, occurs from April 13 to 15 and celebrates renewal and purification. Observed with water-splashing, processions, and temple visits, the festival brings families together and marks a new beginning with traditional music, dance, and blessings.

**1 May**  
**Vesak**  
Vesak, also known as Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima and Buddha Day, commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha in Theravada, Tibetan Buddhism and Navayana.

**5 May**  
**Cinco de Mayo**  
Cinco de Mayo marks the anniversary of the 1862 victory over invading French forces by Mexican troops at the Battle of Puebla, and is an important day of celebration of Mexican culture.

**21–23 May**  
**Shavuot**  
Shavuot is a Jewish celebration of Moses’ descent from Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments. It is the second of the Jewish pilgrim festivals.

**24 May**  
**Pentecost**  
Pentecost is a festival where Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter.

**26–30 May**  
**Eid al-Adha**  
The celebration concluding the Hajj. The Feast of Sacrifice commemorates the ordeal of Ibrahim (Abraham) who was asked to sacrifice his only son to prove his faith.

**27 May – 3 June**  
**National Reconciliation Week**  
National Reconciliation Week celebrates and builds on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

**16 June**  
**Al Hijri (Islamic New Year)**  
Al Hijri is the Islamic New Year observed on the first day of Muharram.

**5–12 July**  
**National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week**  
NAIDOC Week is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society.

**9 August**  
**International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**  
The United Nations’ annual International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples encourages people to spread the UN’s message on the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous peoples.

**4 September**  
**Krishna Janmashtami**  
Krishna Janmashtami celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, believed to be the eighth reincarnation of Lord Vishnu, who gave the vital message of the Bhagwat Gita – the guiding principles for every Hindu.

**11–13 September**  
**Rosh Hashanah**  
Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival and commemorates the creation of the world. Customs include the blowing of the Shofar, a ram's horn trumpet, and the dipping of apples in honey as a symbol of the sweet New Year ahead. Work is not permitted on this day.

**20–21 September**  
**Yom Kippur**  
This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with fasting and intensive prayer. Many Jews will refrain from work and attend synagogue services.

**25 September – 2 October**  
**Sukkot (Tabernacles)**  
Sukkot, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, is a Jewish holiday celebrated for seven days, beginning on the 15th day of the month of Tishrei. It is one of the Three Pilgrimage Festivals.

**2–3 October**  
**Shemini Atzeret**  
Shemini Atzeret is a Jewish holiday celebrated on the 22nd day of Tishrei. It is a holy day devoted to the spiritual aspects of the festival of Sukkot.

**3–4 October**  
**Simchat Torah**  
Simchat Torah is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of the public Torah readings, and the beginning of a new cycle.

**20 October**  
**Vijayadashami**  
Vijayadashami, also known as Dussehra or Dashain, is a major Hindu festival celebrated at the end of Navaratri every year.

**2 November**  
**Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)**  
Dia de los Muertos combines the ancient Aztec custom of celebrating ancestors with All Souls' Day. This Day is a holiday that Spanish invaders brought to Mexico starting in the early 1500s.

**8 November**  
**Diwali (also known as Deepavali)**  
This festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

**11 November**  
**Remembrance Day**  
Remembrance Day is known in some countries as Armistice Day or Veterans Day. This date marks the end of fighting in the First World War, and is a day is generally marked as a day to remember all those who died or suffered in wars and armed conflicts.

**4–12 December**  
**Hanukkah**  
The Jewish festival of rededication, is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar.

**25 December**  
**Christmas Day**  
Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus. Many in Australia celebrate Christmas, regardless of their religious affiliation. Christmas lights and trees are displayed, carols are sung, and individuals come together to exchange gifts and spend time with family and friends.

**26 December 2026 – 1 January 2027**  
**Kwanzaa**  
This week-long celebration honours African and African-American cultures. It culminates in a feast and gift-giving, first celebrated in 1966.